

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/698,422	KATO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Kim-Kwok CHU	2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 8/30/2006.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-10, 16, 12-15, 17 and 18 which are renumbered as 1-11 respectively.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/893,731 .
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
 of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_ .
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given telephone interview with Mr. Paul A. Fournier on September 28, 2006.

3. The Amendment filed on August 30, 2006 has been amended as follows:

- (a) in Claim 7, line 13, the term "that stricture" has been changed to -stricturing--; and
- (b) similarly, in claim 12, line 14, the term "that stricture" has been changed to -stricturing--.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 7-10 and 12-18 are allowable over prior art.

5. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter based on Amendment filed on August 30, 2006.

As in claims 7 and 12, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a recording medium manufacturing step and system having the following feature:

- (a) forming a groove tracks extending by irradiation a spot of a cutting light beam which moves relatively to a recording master disk, on a photoresist layer formed on the recording master disk;
- (b) shifting the spot of the cutting light beam in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the groove tracks extend, returning the shifted spot to a position where the groove tracks should extend, thereby forming the prepits having sides defined by curved surfaces continuously extending from sides of the groove tracks, and making those sides of the groove tracks which face the sides of the land prepits having curved surfaces stricturing the groove tracks; and
- (c) the sides of the land prepits have a radius of mean curvature smaller than a radius of mean curvature of sides of the groove tracks in non-present regions of the land prepits.

The features indicated above, in combination with the other elements of the claims, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Kim CHU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7585 between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch, can be reached on (571) 272-7589.

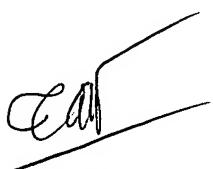
The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9191 (toll free).

Kim-Kwok CHU

kc 8/28/2006

Examiner AU2627  
September 28, 2006  
(571) 272-7585

  
TAN DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

9/29/06